
DIGEST

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Norton

HB No. 706

Abstract: Relative to the levy of an additional sales and use tax in the city of Shreveport, removes provisions that place term limitations on the imposition and renewal of such tax.

Present constitution authorizes any school board or local governmental subdivision (parish or municipality), subject to voter approval, to levy a sales and use tax provided that the rate of all sales and use taxes collected in a parish or municipality, exclusive of state sales and use taxes, does not exceed 3%. Authorizes the legislature to authorize the levy and collection of additional sales and use taxes by school boards or local governmental subdivisions which additional taxes must also be approved by the voters.

Present law (R.S. 47:338.1) authorizes any municipality, subject to voter approval, to levy sales and use taxes not to exceed 2-1/2%. Excludes municipalities in the parishes of Catahoula, LaSalle, Caldwell, Franklin, and Tensas from authority to levy 1% of such 2-1/2%.

Present law (R.S. 47:338.54) authorizes any parish or school board, subject to voter approval, to levy sales and use taxes not to exceed a total of 5% (excluding state and law enforcement district taxes).

Present law authorizes the governing authority of the city of Shreveport, subject to voter approval, to levy an additional sales and use tax not to exceed 1/4 of 1% for an initial term not to exceed four years. Provides for renewal of the tax for a term of six years and then for five-year terms after the expiration of the six-year term. Provides that the tax shall be in addition to all other authorized taxes and shall not be subject to the rate limitations established by present constitution or present law. Further provides that the authority granted in present law shall not limit prior taxing authority granted to the city or any other political subdivision. Present law requires that the proceeds of the tax be used for salaries, benefits, equipment, and personnel for the fire and police departments of the city of Shreveport.

Proposed law retains present law except to remove the term limitations on the imposition and renewal of the tax.

Present law authorizes the governing authority of the city of Shreveport to call the election and submit a proposition to the voters for the levy of the additional sales and use tax for each of the terms only after it has adopted a plan(s) specifying the purposes for which the tax will be used. Requires that all plans include an estimate of the annual and aggregate cost of the salaries, benefits, equipment, and personnel to be funded by the additional tax and an estimate of the rate

of the sales and use tax, not to exceed 1/4 of 1%, necessary to be levied in each year to fund the estimated cost of salaries, benefits, equipment, and personnel. Provides that if the imposition or renewal of the tax is not approved by a majority of electors at any election provided for in present law, then the provisions of present law shall be null and void and the tax cannot not be levied or collected.

Proposed law removes present law.

Proposed law provides that provisions of proposed law shall have no effect on the additional sales and use tax being imposed within the city of Shreveport on the effective date of proposed law that was approved by the voters in the city at an election held on Dec. 8, 2012. Requires that the governing authority of the city continue to impose the additional sales and use taxes as provided by law, until it expires, as provided in the proposition. Authorizes the governing authority of the city to then impose a tax as provided in proposed law, if the imposition of the tax has been approved by the city's voters as provided in proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 47:338.16)